

PAOLA BALLA

Task: Look at the following images and excerpts, then discuss with your group: What are these people doing? Why do you think are they doing this? Do these people have any similarities? Then fill out the provided worksheet and glue it into your book.



1. *Black Lives Matter protester, 2016*



2. *Washington Women's March, 2017*

3. Biography: Rosa Parks *Civil Rights Activist*

In America when Rosa Parks was alive, white people and African-Americans were treated very differently. In certain states of the country, the treatment of African-Americans was extremely bad. There were different schools, toilets, drinking fountains, churches and so on. African-Americans even had to sit at the back of the bus and were not allowed to sit if a white person wanted a seat.

Parks made history on 1 December 1955 when she refused to give up her seat to a white man on the bus. The police arrived, arrested and fined her \$10 for breaking a segregation law. Rosa refused to pay the fine as she said the law was illegal. She even appealed to a higher court.

In protest, a large number of African-Americans decided that they would no longer use the city buses. Dr Martin Luther King Jr was one of the people who encouraged African-Americans to boycott the buses. Even though this meant that many people had to walk to school and work, as many of them did not own cars, they still refused to pay for the bus and for 381 days they held together in a stand against segregated laws.

Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that Rosa was correct and that the segregation laws that forced African-Americans to stand for white people were unconstitutional.



4. Paola Balla - Artist/Activist

The artists' dynamic responses highlight the battles that we as communities are fighting through the broader lens of unresolved rights to lands and waters, but also our very personal struggles of disadvantage, inter-generational trauma and racial vilification. Powerfully voicing our political realities, the artists work through protest, cultural authority and future imaginings in order to expose and challenge the state of affairs, and inspire the strength to continue our ancestral legacy as First Peoples. – Kimberley Moulton, Exhibition Curator, STATE OF THE NATION

Artist Paola Balla, as featured in the STATE OF THE NATION exhibition



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